

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 INT-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01

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R 190446Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WAHDC 1139

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PP

SUBJECT: BOUGAINVILLE DEVELOPMENTS

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS BOUGAINVILLE SECESSIONISTS HAVE THREATENED "POLITICAL REDRESS" THROUGHOUT ENTIRE ISLAND "DESIGNED TO GET SOME OF THE MONEY FROM THE COPPER MINE BACK TO THE PEOPLE", IF GPNG DOES NOT RELEASE BY END OF WEEK ROYALTIES AMOUNTING TO A\$2.5 MILLION PREVIOUSLY EARMARKED FOR BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

2. LEADER OF BOUGAINVILLE MINE WORKERS STATES UNION WILL NOT BECOME INVOLVED AT THIS TIME BUT MAY LATER JOIN SECESSIONISTS IF MINE WORKERS BACK PAY NOT AWARDED IN CASE CURRENTLY BEFORE SUPREME COURT.

3. GOVT HELD INTERNAL TALKS ON SITUATION ON JANUARY 16 AND REPORTEDLY SENT ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS TO THE ISLAND ON THE 17TH AND 18TH.

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4. PRESS ALSO REPORTS SECESSIONIST LEADERS PLAN TO

HOLD ELECTIONS FOR A NEW PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT BETWEEN
MARCH 15 AND MARCH 25.

5. COMMENT: DURING DECEMBER 1974 NEGOTIATIONS GPNG
AND BPG AGREED THAT A PART OF THE MINE ROYALTIES WOULD
GO TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVT. THESE PAYMENTS WERE
SUSPENDED AFTER THE PROVINCIAL GOVT WAS TERMINATED.
IT MAY BE THAT THE SECESSIONISTS ARE NOW FEELING
FINANCIALLY PRESSED. ELECTIONS SCHEDULED BY
SECESSIONISTS MAY POSE MORE ANGUISH TO GPNG POLICY-
MAKERS THAN OTHER THREATS. GPNG HAS LONG CLAIMED
THAT SINCE BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
(ASSEMBLY) MEMBERS WERE NAMED IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
LEGISLATION (BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVT ACT OF 1974)
AND NOT ELECTED, THE REPEAL OF THE 1974 BOUGAINVILLE
ACT CANCELLED ANY RIGHT THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY MIGHT
HAVE CLAIMED TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF BOUGAINVILLE.

6. IF ELECTIONS ARE HELD, THE RESULTING ASSEMBLY
MEMBERS COULD CLAIM THAT THEY REPRESENT THE WILL OF
THE BOUGAINVILLE PEOPLE AS EXPRESSED IN "DEMOCRATIC"
ELECTIONS, A STEP TOWARD CREATING AN AURA OF LEGITIMACY
FOR THE SECESSIONISTS LEADERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SECESSION, COPPER, MINING, POLITICAL SITUATION, FINANCIAL PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTM00029
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760020-0599
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760144/aaaabmyb.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOUGAINVILLE DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PGOV, PP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006